CLAIMS

1. A method for determining deterioration of a capacitor including a pair of electrode bodies and electrolytic solution provided between
5   the electrode bodies by applying an AC voltage to the capacitor to measure an impedance characteristic at a frequency of the AC voltage, comprising:

previously calculating an inflection point appearing in the impedance characteristic due to the deterioration of the electrolytic
10   solution to compare a characteristic value based on an impedance value in a frequency region lower than the inflection point with a predetermined characteristic value, thereby determining the deterioration.

15   2. The method for determining the deterioration of a capacitor according to Claim 1, wherein when the impedance characteristic is displayed such that a frequency value is higher while moving along a horizontal axis to the right and an impedance value is higher while moving along a vertical axis to the top, the inflection point is a first
20   inflection point having a convex shape to the top and another inflection point different from the inflection point is a second inflection point having a convex shape to the bottom.

3. The method for determining the deterioration of a capacitor
25   according to Claim 2, wherein the characteristic value is an impedance value at a frequency that is lower than the first inflection point and that is higher than the second inflection point.

4. The method for determining the deterioration of a capacitor according to Claim 2, wherein the characteristic value is a value that is calculated based on a correlation between an impedance value that is calculated by previously deteriorating the capacitor and a resistance value of a serial capacitor at a frequency lower than the first inflection point and higher than the second inflection point.

5. The method for determining the deterioration of a capacitor according to Claim 2, wherein the characteristic value is a capacity component obtained based on the voltage change due to the self-discharge of the capacitor at a frequency lower than the first inflection point and lower than the second inflection point.